

Baptism:

So You Really Want To Be Close To God?

*"God Is Closer Than You Think" Part 7 of 7
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"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, NLT)

Clearing Up The Confusion About Baptism

1) When? AFTER WE RECEIVE CHRIST BY FAITH, not before.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..."
(Matthew 28:19a, NLT)

"Those who believed what Peter said [i.e. the Good News] were baptized..."
(Acts 2:41a, NLT)

2) How? BY THE MODE OF IMMERSION, not another.

"He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." (Acts 8:38-39a, NLT)

3) Why? TO IDENTIFY WITH CHRIST, not who we were.

"..in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19b, NLT)

"We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."
(Romans 6:2-4, NIV)

4) And? OBEYING GOD LEADS TO BLESSING, not bane.

"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:20, NLT)

"Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.'" (John 14:23, NIV)